that have a number of paths between them. The method (1) for each particular net and each particular path, identifies a path-use probability that specifies the probability that a set of potential routes for the particular net will use the particular path, and (2) uses the identified path-use probabilities to identify routes for the nets.--
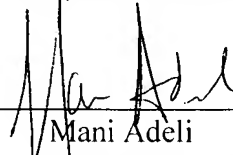
REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is concurrently filed with the above-entitled application, which is a continuation application of a presently pending application entitled "Routing Method and Apparatus that Utilizes Diagonal Routes," filed on December 7, 2001, and having serial number 10/013,819. In this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have changed the title of this application, inserted a reference to the related parent application, canceled claims 1-26, added claims 27-46, and replaced the

Summary and Abstract. Accordingly, claims 27-46 are currently pending in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated:1/13/02

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